

**Amendments to the Specification**

**Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 11-16 as follows:**

This application is related to a co-pending application of James P. Howley, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, 10/616,334, entitled “Extinction Ration Control of a Semiconductor Laser”, filed concurrently herewith and subsequently issued on March 1, 2005 as U.S. Patent Number 6,862,379, commonly assigned to Agere Systems, Inc., and incorporated by reference herein, with priority claimed for all commonly disclosed subject matter (the “related application”).